

REMARKS

Claims 1-21, 24 and 25 were presented for examination. The Examiner rejects claims 1-21, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. The Examiner states the claims 1-21, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In the current amendment, claims 1, 16 and 21 have been amended, and claims 26-39 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-21, 24 and 25-39 are presently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 16 and 21 are independent. Applicants submit that pending claims 1-21, 24 and 25-39 are in condition for allowance.

The following comments address all stated grounds of rejection. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections and urge the Examiner to pass the claims to allowance in view of the remarks set forth below.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-21, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as not particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that claims 1-21, 24 and 25, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 16 and 21 as indefinite. Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 16 and 21, mooting this rejection with respect to these claims. Claim 2-15 and 24-25 depend on and incorporate the patentable claim limitations of independent claim. Claims 17-20 depend on and incorporate the patentable claim limitations of independent claim 16. Thus, in view of the current amendments, this rejection is also moot with respect to dependent claims 2-15, 17-20 and 24-25.

In light of the aforementioned amendments, Applicants submit claims 1-21, 24 and 25 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-21, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

NEW DEPENDENT CLAIMS 26-39

Newly added claims 26-39 depend on and incorporate all of the patentable subject matter of independent claim 21. No new matter was introduced. For the reasons discussed above, amended independent claim 21 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Thus, claims dependent from claim 21 are patentable and in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants submit dependent claims 26-39 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the aforementioned arguments and amendments, Applicants contend that each of the Examiners rejections has been adequately addressed and all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application; the Examiner is urged to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Choate, Hall & Stewart, LLP

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/s/ Christopher J. McKenna
Christopher J. McKenna
Registration No.: 53,302
Attorney for Applicants

Choate, Hall & Stewart, LLP
Two International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
(617) 248-5000
(617) 248-4000 (Fax)